

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 PM-07 PER-05 RSC-01 DRC-01 /041 W

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R 061540Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6128

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 530

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TD PINR APER

SUBJECT: ACCREDITATION OF USG MILITARY ATTACHES TO GOTT

REF: STATE 38892

SUMMARY. EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT APPROPRIATE USG MILITARY REPRESENTATION TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS A NON-RESIDENT ARMY ATTACHE WHO IS ALSO ACCREDITED AS DEFENSE ATTACHE, REPRESENTING ALL THREE SERVICE AS NECESSARY. NO SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION EXISTS FOR ACCREDITATION OF SEPARATE LUR OR NAVAL ATTACHES. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL, WE HAVE REVIEWED ISSUES SURROUNDING PROPOSED ACCREDITATION OF MILITARY ATTACHES TO GOTT AND ATTEMPTED TO CONSIDER PROS AND CONS OF ALTERNATE POSSIBILITIES. IN LIGHT OF THIS REVIEW, I AM PREPARED STRONGLY TO RECOMMEND THAT ACCREDITATION OF MILITARY ATTACHES BE LIMITED TO ONE NON-RESIDENT ARMY ATTACHE WHO WOULD ALSO BE DESIGNATED AS DEFENSE ATTACHE TO PROVIDE ANY NECESSARY LIAISON WITH OTHER MILITARY SERVICES REQUIRED BY THIS POST.

2. KEY OFFICERS OF EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH TOP OFFICERS OF T&T COAST GUARD, POLICE, AND ARMY REGIMENT. IN FACT, WE HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO THESE OFFICIALS THAN TO ANY OTHER PART OF TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT. ACCREDITATION OF REDUNDANT MILITARY ATTACHES THEREFORE NOT REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH MINUSCULE MILITARY ELEMENTS HERE, AND EMBASSY  
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STANDS READY TO ASSUME ADDITIONAL PERIPHERAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTING

REQUIREMENTS WHICH MAY BE LEVIED IN ABSENCE OF NAVAL OR AIR ATTACHE ACCREDITATION.

3. CONTINUATION OF FORMAL ARMY ATTACHE ACCREDITATION IS BOTH USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE FOR MAJOR NATION SUCH AS OURS, EVEN THOUGH SIZE AND ROLE OF GOTT REGIMENT ARE MINOR HERE. DEFENSE (ARMY) ATTACHE LINK WILL CONTINUE TO BE APPRECIATED BY GOTT REGIMENT FOR CONTACT IT PROVIDES FOR SUCH REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AS RECENTLY CONCLUDED PAN AMERICAN RIFLE MATCH, AND SENSE OF INCLUSION IN WIDER AREA MILITARY EXCHANGES AND DIALOGUE. ACCREDITATION WILL ALSO GIVE EMBASSY POS NATURAL POINT OF REFERENCE FOR SUCH CONTINUING OPERATIONAL MATTERS AS LEAVE EXTENSION REQUESTS BY VACATIONING US MILITARY PERSONNEL, TECHNICAL QUERIES, ETC.

4. DIA ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MULTIPLE ACCREDITATION ON BASIS OF MILITARY ROLE IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS IS COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS IN TRINIDAD CONTEXT. THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT LATIN AMERICA. DESPITE ABORTIVE ATTEMPT IN 1970, MILITARY HERE NCY HAVE NO REPEAT NO SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN GOTT POLITICS AND VIRTUALLY NO PROSPECT IN NEAR FUTURE OF ATTAINING SUCH ROLE.

NAVY ATTACHE

5. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED POSSIBLE USEFULNESS OF CONTINUED ACCREDITATION OF NAVAL ATTACHE IN CONNECTION WITH NAVAL SHIP VISITS HERE AND CONCLUDE THAT ADVANTAGE IS APPARENT RATHER THAN REAL. IN FACE, NON-RESIDENT PERSONNEL HAVE PROVEN TO BE BURDEN RATHER THAN ASSISTANCE TO THIS SMALL MISSION WHEN HANDLING SHIP VISITS. CONTACTS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, SHIP CHANDLERS, PROVIDERS OF SERVICES, ETC. CAN ONLY REALISTICALLY BE HANDLED BY STAFF WITH ESTABLISHED CONTACTS HERE AND WELL IN ADVANCE OF SHIP'S ACTUAL ARRIVAL. LAST MINUTE ADDITION OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FROM CARACAS MERELY STRAINS POST'S EXTREMELY LIMITED TRANSPORT AND SUPPORT FACILITIES WITHOUT COMMENSURATE ADVANTAGE SINCE SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL KNOWS NEITHER LOCAL LOGISTIC OR PROTOCOL CHANNELS, NOR PERSONNEL OF VISITING SHIPS. FREQUENCY OF SHIP VISITS HERE HAS LED TO DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIVELY EFFICIENT PROCEDURES FOR EMBASSY HANDLING WHICH DO NOT APPEAR TO REQUIRE OUTSIDE AUGMENTATION, RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH AUGMENTATION DOES NOT REALLY ACCOMPLISH PUTATIVE PURPOSE.

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6. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAS NO NAVY. ASIDE FROM SEARCH & RESCUE, COAST GUARD HAS NO MEANINGFUL SECURITY MISSION EXCEPT AS OCCASIONAL ASSIST TO CUSTOMS VESSEL CARRYING OUT ANTI-SMUGGLING MISSION AND LATTER USUALLY ONLY BY SPECIAL PREARRANGEMENT. BELIEVE CLOSE EMBASSY CONTACT WITH SENIOR COAST GUARD OFFICERS CAN PROVIDE NECESSARY CONTINUING INTELLIGENCE ON MARITIME MATTERS HERE.

7. EMBASSY DOES FEEL SOME NEED OF SUPPORT IN MEREP REPORTING OR

NAVAL CONTROL OF SHIPPING FUNCTIONS SHOULD THESE EVER BE ACTIVATED TO MAJOR DEGREE. WITHOUT RESIDENT NAVAL PERSONNEL IN PORT OF SPAIN, HOWEVER, RESPONSIBILITY FALLS UPON EMBASSY IN ANY CASE. I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OTHER POSTS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD HAVE BEEN ENHANCED BY SENDING A NEWLY ASSIGNED FSO ON TDY TO ONE OR TWO WEEK MEREP COURSE UNDER NAVY AUSPICES WHILE ENROUTE TO POST. IF WASHINGTON ENVISAGES MAJOR INCREASE IN MEREP DUTIES OF THIS POST, RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO SUCH TDY ASSIGNMENT OF ONE OF OUR NEW VICE CONSUL OR GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER REPLACEMENTS LATER THIS YEAR PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT POST.

AIR ATTACHE

8. ABSENCE OF ANY GOTT AIR FORCE OR AIR ARM MAKES USG ACCREDITATION OF AIR ATTACHE HERE COMPLETE ANOMALY AND AN OSTENTATIOUS

ACCOUTERMENT OF "BIG POWER" PRESENCE. AS NOTED ABOVE, EMBASSY PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY NECESSARY PERIPHERAL REPORTING FUNCTIONS LEVIED AS RESULT OF NON-ACCREDITATION OF AIR ATTACHE.

PRACTICE OF OTHER COUNTRIES

9. NO REPEAT NO OTHER GOVERNMENT ACCREDITS AN AIR ATTACHE TO GOTT. NEITHER UK NOR CANADA ACCREDIT ANY MILITARY ATTACHES TO GOTT. ONLY GOVERNMENTS OTHER THAN USG WITH MILITARY ATTACHES ACCREDITED ARE: ITALY, MEXICO, AND VENEZUELA. OF THESE, ONLY VENEZUELAN (ARMY) IS RESIDENT IN PORT OF SPAIN.

VIEW OF TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT

10. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT DIRECTLY RAISED ISSUE, COUNTRY TEAM DETECTS NO REPEAT NO INTEREST BY ANY ELEMENT OF GOTT OR UNIFORMED BRANCHES IN CONTINUED ACCREDITATION OF EITHER NAVAL  
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OR AIR ATTACHES HERE  
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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PINR, APER, MILI, PFOR, TD, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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